



Unexpected benefits...

A major customer in the petroleum industry recently told us of some additional, but unexpected, benefits from their machinery monitoring systems.

At one plant, fewer unplanned machine shutdowns were reported *after* the axial position monitors were wired for automatic trip. Added confidence in the machine protection system allows the operators to run the machines closer to the shutdown limits without the fear of damaging the machine. This has greatly improved machine availability.

At another plant, monitoring small tank transfer pumps has provided an indication when the tanks supplying the pumps are running low. When the level in the tank becomes low, the drop in NPSH (Net Positive Suction Head) at the pump can cause cavitation and serious damage to the pump. Operators look for increases in vibration, as an indicator of cavitation and change tanks before serious damage can occur. The correlation of a low tank to vibration was an unexpected benefit of the system.

Modern machinery information systems, such as Trendmaster® 2000, with its Distributed Control System Interface, allow operators to access machinery information, such as current values and alarm conditions, on the same screen as process information. There is great value when operators and process data are brought together. ■